

(ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRANSLATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE
CLAIMS UNDER PCT ARTICLE 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(C)(3)))

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World Intellectual Property Organization
PCT Division
34 Chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
SWITZERLAND

Amendment of the claims under Article 19(1) (Rule 46)

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Applicant : SONY CORPORATION
7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome, Shinagawa-ku,
Tokyo 141-0001 JAPAN
Agent : INAMOTO Yoshio
711 Building 4F, 11-18, Nishi-Shinjuku 7-chome,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023 JAPAN
03-3369-6479
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Dear sir

The Applicant, who received the International Search Report relating to the above identified International Application transmitted on 24. 9. 2004, hereby files amendment under Article 19(1) as in the attached sheets.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 16, 18 and 21 are replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers. Claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 20 are deleted. The other claims are unchanged.

The Applicant also files as attached herewith a brief statement explaining the amendment and indicating any impact that amendment therein might have on the description and drawings.

Very truly yours,


Yoshio INAMOTO

STATEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19 (1)

Claim 1 defines that the light distribution layer and the portion of the diffusion layer excluding the diffusion element, both layers provided for the backlight, are composed of a first resin, and that the diffusion element is composed of a second resin different from the first resin.

Claim 4 defines that the first resin and the second resin are resin materials having refractive index ranging from 1.2 to 1.7.

Claim 7 defines that the prismatic shape formed on a surface facing to the light source is composed of a plurality of different shaped prism defined by the distance from the light source.

Claim 9 defines that the light focusing layer described in claim 6 is composed of the first resin.

Claim 16 defines that in a liquid crystal display apparatus having a liquid crystal display device and a backlight, the light distribution layer and the portion of the diffusion layer excluding the diffusion element, both layers provided for the backlight, are composed of a first resin, and that the diffusion element is composed of a second resin different from the first resin.

Claim 18 defines that the prismatic shape formed on a surface of the light focusing layer facing to the light source is composed of a plurality of different shaped prism defined by the distance from the light source.

Claim 21 defines that in a liquid crystal display apparatus having a liquid crystal display device and a backlight, the prismatic shape formed on a surface of the light focusing layer facing to the light source is composed of a plurality of different shaped prism defined by the distance from the light source.

The present invention enables to provide high-performance, low-cost backlight which is thinner than the conventional backlights. Moreover, the present invention also enables to provide a light guide plate free from an unevenness of transfer, a method of manufacturing a backlight

provided with the light guide plate, and the light guide plate, by curtailing unnecessary manufacturing steps.

CLAIMS

1. (amended)

5 A backlight characterized by comprising a light source
for emitting light, and a diffuser disposed between the light
source and the liquid crystal display device,

wherein said diffuser includes a diffusion layer for
diffusing the light emitted from the light source, and a light
distribution layer integrally formed with the diffusion layer
10 and disposed more toward the liquid crystal display device
than the diffusion layer, for distributing the light diffused by
the diffusion layer toward the liquid crystal display device,

wherein said diffusion layer includes a diffusion
element, and

15 wherein a first resin forming the light distribution
layer, and the portion of the diffusion layer excluding said
diffusion element is different from a second resin forming said
diffusion element.

20 2. The backlight as described in claim 1, characterized in
that:

said light distribution layer has a prismatic surface on
a surface thereof facing toward the liquid crystal display
device.

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3. (deleted)

4. (amended)

30 The backlight as described in claim 1, characterized in
that:

said first resin and said second resin are resin

materials having refractive index ranging from 1.2 to 1.7.

5. (deleted)

5 6. The backlight as described in claim 1, characterized in that:

said diffuser further comprises a light focusing layer for focusing the light emitted from the light source, formed integrally with the diffusion layer, and disposed more toward
10 the light source than the diffusion layer.

7. (amended)

The backlight as described in claim 6, characterized in that:

15 said focusing layer has a prismatic shape on a surface thereof facing to said light source, said prismatic shape being composed of a plurality of different shaped prism defined by the distance from the light source.

20 8. (deleted)

9. (amended)

The backlight as described in claim 6, characterized in that:

25 said focusing layer is composed of said first resin.

10. (deleted)

11. (deleted)

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12. A method for manufacturing a diffuser of a backlight

provided for a liquid crystal display device for illuminating thereof, said method characterized by comprising:

a first charging step of charging a first resin into a first cylinder;

5 a second charging step of charging the first resin into which a second resin different from the first resin is mixed, into a second cylinder;

a first molding step of molding a two-layered sheet including the first resin and the first resin into which the second resin is mixed, by multi-layer extrusion molding, using
10 the first cylinder into which the first resin is charged by the first charging step and the second cylinder into which the first resin into which the second resin is mixed is charged by the second charging step; and

15 a second molding step of molding a surface of the first resin of the sheet molded by the first molding step, into a prismatic shape by surface rolling.

13. A method for manufacturing a diffuser of a backlight provided for a liquid crystal display device for illuminating
20 thereof, said method characterized by comprising:

a first charging step of charging a first resin into a first cylinder;

a second charging step of charging the first resin into
25 which a second resin different from the first resin is mixed, into a second cylinder;

a third charging step of charging the first resin into a third cylinder;

a first molding step of molding a three-layered sheet by
30 multi-layer extrusion molding, using the first cylinder into which the first resin is charged by the first charging step, the

second cylinder into which the first resin into which the second resin is mixed is charged by the second charging step, and the third cylinder into which the first resin is charged by the third charging step, wherein the three-layered sheet is formed from the first resin, the first resin into which the second resin is mixed, and the first resin, with both exposed layers thereof being formed from the first resin;

a second molding step of molding a surface of one of the first resin-formed layers of the sheet molded by the first molding step into a prismatic shape by surface rolling; and

a third molding step of molding a surface of other one of the first resin-formed layers of the sheet molded by the first molding step into a prismatic shape by surface rolling.

14. A method for manufacturing a diffuser of a backlight provided for a liquid crystal display device for illuminating thereof, said method characterized by comprising:

a mixing step of mixing a second resin into a first resin;

a first molding step of molding the first resin into which the second resin is mixed by the mixing step, into a sheet; and

a second molding step of molding a prism-shaped first resin by using a 2P molding method in contact and integral with one of surfaces of the sheet molded by the first molding step.

15. The method for manufacturing a diffuser as described in claim 14, characterized by further comprising:

a third molding step of molding a prism-shaped first resin by using a 2P molding method in contact and integral with other one of surfaces of the sheet molded by the first molding step.

16. (amended)

A liquid crystal display apparatus characterized by comprising:

- 5 a liquid crystal display device; and
 a backlight for illuminating the liquid crystal display device,

 wherein said backlight includes a light source for emitting light, and a diffuser disposed between the light
10 source and the liquid crystal display device,

 wherein said diffuser includes a diffusion layer for diffusing the light emitted from the light source, and a light distribution layer integrally formed with the diffusion layer and disposed more toward the liquid crystal display device
15 than the diffusion layer, for distributing the light diffused by the diffusion layer toward the liquid crystal display device,

 wherein said diffusion layer includes a diffusion element, and

 wherein a first resin forming the light distribution
20 layer, and the portion of the diffusion layer excluding said diffusion element is different from a second resin forming said diffusion element.

17. The liquid crystal display apparatus as described in
25 claim 16, characterized in that:

 said diffuser further comprises a light focusing layer for focusing the light emitted from the light source, formed integrally with the diffusion layer, and disposed more toward the light source than the diffusion layer.

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18. (amended)

A backlight provided for a liquid crystal display device for illuminating thereof, characterized by comprising:

a light source for emitting light; and

a diffuser disposed between the light source and the liquid crystal display device,

wherein said diffuser includes a light focusing layer for focusing the light emitted from the light source, and a light distribution layer integrally formed with the diffusion layer and disposed more toward the liquid crystal display device than the light focusing layer, for distributing the light focused by the light focusing layer toward the liquid crystal display device, and

wherein said focusing layer has a prismatic shape on a surface thereof facing to said light source, said prismatic shape being composed of a plurality of different shaped prism defined by the distance from said light source.

19. The backlight as described in claim 18, characterized in that:

said light distribution layer has a prismatic surface on a surface thereof facing toward the liquid crystal display device.

20. (deleted)

21. (amended)

A liquid crystal display apparatus characterized by comprising:

a liquid crystal display device; and

a backlight for illuminating the liquid crystal display device,

wherein said backlight includes a light source for emitting light, and a diffuser disposed between the light source and the liquid crystal display device,

5 wherein said diffuser includes a light focusing layer for focusing the light emitted from the light source, and a light distribution layer integrally formed with the light focusing layer and disposed more toward the liquid crystal display device than the light focusing layer, for distributing the light focused by the light focusing layer toward the liquid crystal display device, and

10 wherein said focusing layer has a prismatic shape on a surface thereof facing to said light source, said prismatic shape being composed of a plurality of different shaped prism defined by the distance from said light source.

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22. A light guide plate having a light incidence surface, for guiding light emitted from a plurality of light emitting devices arranged in a row at predetermined intervals in a longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface for surface emission, characterized in that:

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a gate through which a molten material is charged to fill a cavity of an injection molding die during injection molding of the light guide plate is disposed at a position of the light incidence surface where none of the plurality of light emitting devices are arranged.

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23. A light guide plate having a light incidence surface, for guiding light emitted from a plurality of light emitting devices arranged in a row at predetermined intervals in a longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface for surface emission, and being wedge-shaped with a thickness thereof gradually

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decreasing in a direction of guiding the guided light, characterized in that:

5 a gate through which a molten material is charged to fill a cavity of an injection molding die during injection molding of the light guide plate is arranged at a position of the light incidence surface where none of the plurality of light emitting devices are arranged.

24. The light guide plate as described in claim 23,
10 characterized in that:

if a plurality of light emitting devices having an even number are arranged in a row at predetermined intervals in a longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface for surface emission, said gate is arranged at a position between two of
15 the light emitting devices located near the center of the longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface, where none of the plurality of light emitting devices are arranged.

25. The light guide plate as described in claim 23,
20 characterized in that:

if a plurality of light emitting devices having an odd number are arranged in a row at predetermined intervals in a longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface for surface emission, said gate is arranged at a position between a light
25 emitting device located at the center of the longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface, and one of light emitting devices adjacent to said light emitting device located at the center, where none of the plurality of light emitting devices are arranged.

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26. The light guide plate as described in claim 23,

characterized in that:

said plurality of light emitting devices are light emitting diodes (LEDs).

5 27. A backlight characterized by comprising:

a light guide plate for guiding light incident on a light incidence surface for surface emission from a light emergence surface;

10 a light source having a plurality of light emitting devices arranged in a row at predetermined intervals in a longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface of the light guide plate;

a reflection sheet disposed on a side of a light reflection surface of the light guide plate;

15 a sheet member formed from a diffusion sheet and a prism sheet disposed so as to be stacked on a side of the light emergence surface of the light guide plate; and

a frame for holding the light source, the reflection sheet, and the sheet member on the light guide plate,

20 wherein the light guide plate has a gate, through which a molten material is charged to fill a cavity of an injection molding die during injection molding of the light guide plate, disposed at a position of the light incidence surface where none of the plurality of light emitting devices are arranged.

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28. A backlight characterized by comprising:

a light guide plate for guiding light incident on a light incidence surface for surface emission from a light emergence surface, and being wedge-shaped so that a thickness of the light guide plate gradually decreases in a direction of guiding the guided light;

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a light source having a plurality of light emitting devices arranged in a row at predetermined intervals in a longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface of the light guide plate;

5 a reflection sheet disposed on a side of a light reflection surface of the light guide plate;

a sheet member formed from a diffusion sheet and a prism sheet disposed so as to be stacked on a side of the light emergence surface of the light guide plate; and

10 a frame for holding the light source, the reflection sheet, and the sheet member on the light guide plate,

wherein the light guide plate has a gate, through which a molten material is charged to fill a cavity of an injection molding die during injection molding of the light guide plate,
15 disposed at a position of the light incidence surface where none of the plurality of light emitting devices are arranged.

29. The backlight as described in claim 28, characterized in that:

20 if the plurality of light emitting devices of the light source, having an even number are arranged in a row at predetermined intervals in a longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface for surface emission, the light guide plate has the gate arranged at a position between two of the light
25 emitting devices located near the center of the longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface, where none of the plurality of light emitting devices are arranged.

30. The backlight as described in claim 28, characterized in
30 that:

if the plurality of light emitting devices of the light

source, having an odd number are arranged in a row at predetermined intervals in a longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface for surface emission, the light guide plate has the gate arranged at a position between a light emitting device located at the center of the longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface, and one of light emitting devices adjacent to the light emitting device located at the center, where none of the plurality of light emitting devices are arranged.

31. The backlight as described in claim 28, characterized in that:

said plurality of light emitting devices of the light source are light emitting diodes (LEDs).

32. A method for manufacturing a light guide plate having a light incidence surface, for guiding light emitted from a plurality of light emitting devices arranged in a row at predetermined intervals in a longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface for surface emission, characterized in that:

the light guide plate is injection-molded by charging a molten material for filling a cavity of an injection molding die through a gate disposed at a position of the light incidence surface where none of the plurality of light emitting devices are arranged.

33. A method for manufacturing a light guide plate having a light incidence surface, for guiding light emitted from a plurality of light emitting devices arranged in a row at predetermined intervals in a longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface for surface emission, and being

wedge-shaped with a thickness thereof gradually decreasing in a direction of guiding the guided light, characterized in that:

the light guide plate is injection-molded by charging a molten material for filling a cavity of an injection molding die through a gate disposed at a position of the light incidence surface where none of the plurality of light emitting devices are arranged.

34. The method for manufacturing a light guide plate as described in claim 33, characterized in that:

if a plurality of light emitting devices having an even number are arranged in a row at predetermined intervals in a longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface for surface emission,

the light guide plate is injection-molded by charging a molten material for filling a cavity of an injection molding die through the gate arranged at a position between two of the light emitting devices located near the center of the longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface, where none of the plurality of light emitting devices are arranged.

35. The method for manufacturing a light guide plate as described in claim 33, characterized in that:

if a plurality of light emitting devices having an odd number are arranged in a row at predetermined intervals in a longitudinal direction of the light incidence surface for surface emission,

the light guide plate is injection-molded by charging a molten material for filling a cavity of an injection molding die through the gate arranged at a position between a light emitting device located at the center of the longitudinal

direction of the light incidence surface, and one of light emitting devices adjacent to said light emitting device located at the center, where none of the plurality of light emitting devices are arranged.